



ETHERNET-BASED FIRE SYSTEM NETWORK

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial Number 60/390,341, filed June 20, 2002, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to fire safety systems and more specifically to fire safety systems that are configured for use with building control systems of the type that control heating, ventilation, air conditioning, lighting, security and other sub-systems of a building or facility.

Background of the Invention

Nearly every commercial building and most private residences have some form of fire safety system, ranging from a simple smoke detector to a comprehensive fire safety system network. Typically, commercial buildings, factories and building campuses include elaborate systems that employ a plurality of detection devices to warn of a possible fire, notification appliances to send an alert or evacuation signal, automatic fire suppression and/or smoke control devices, and building control devices that manipulate building components such as doors, ventilation devices, elevators and the like.

Complex control systems are also used to control the building functions, such as HVAC, water management and the like. Unlike these building control systems, the hope is that the fire safety system is never needed. Nevertheless, when a fire occurs, a properly engineered fire control system can protect lives and property. Of course, early detection capabilities, such as through smoke, heat and/or flame detectors, go a long way toward